

Lesson 36

Words To Learn This Week

prompt
hasty
scorch
tempest
soothe
sympathetic
redeem
resume
harmony
refrain
illegal
narcotic

"Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words
That ever blotted paper."

—Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

1. **prompt** (prämpt) quick; on time; done at once; to cause (someone) to do something; remind (someone) of the words or actions needed
 - a. Be **prompt** in assembling* your baggage.*
 - b. Terry's caution* **prompted** him to ask many questions before he consented.*
 - c. Larry was confident* he knew his lines well enough not to need any **prompting**.
2. **hasty** (hās' tē) quick; hurried; not well thought out
 - a. A **hasty** glance* convinced him that he was being followed.
 - b. Rather than make a **hasty** decision, Mr. Torres rejected* the offer.
 - c. Myra apologized* for the **hasty** visit.
3. **scorch** (skôrč) burn slightly; dry up; criticize sharply
 - a. The hot iron **scorched** the tablecloth.
 - b. Farmers reported that their wheat was being **scorched** by the fierce* rays of the sun.
 - c. Mr. Regan gave the class a **scorching** lecture* on proper behavior in the cafeteria.
4. **tempest** (tem' pist) violent* storm with much wind; a violent disturbance
 - a. The **tempest** drove the ship on the rocks.
 - b. Following the weather report of the approaching* **tempest**, we were prompted* to seek immediate shelter.
 - c. When Mr. Couche saw that a **tempest** was brewing over the issue, he hastily* called a meeting.
5. **soothe** (sōō th) quiet; calm; comfort
 - a. With an embrace,* the mother **soothed** the hurt child.
 - b. Heat **soothes** some aches; cold **soothes** others.
 - c. Rosalie's nerves were **soothed** by the soft music.
6. **sympathetic** (sim' pə thet' ik) having or showing kind feelings toward others; approving; enjoying the same things and getting along well together
 - a. Judge Cruz was **sympathetic** to the lawyer's plea* for mercy.
 - b. Father was fortunately* **sympathetic** to my request to use the car on weekends.
 - c. We were all **sympathetic** to Suzanne over her recent* misfortune.*
7. **redeem** (ri dēm') buy back; pay off; carry out; set free; make up for
 - a. The property on which money has been lent is **redeemed** when the loan is paid back.
 - b. My family was relieved* to hear that the mortgage had been **redeemed**.
 - c. Mr. Franklin promptly* **redeemed** his promise to help us in time of need.
8. **resume** (rə zōōm') begin again; go on; take again
 - a. **Resume** reading where we left off.
 - b. Those standing may **resume** their seats.
 - c. The violinist **resumed** playing after the intermission.
9. **harmony** (här' mə nē) situation of getting on well together or going well together; sweet or musical sound
 - a. We hoped the incident would not disrupt* the **harmony** that existed between the brothers.
 - b. I am sympathetic* to Warren because his plans are in **harmony** with mine.
 - c. We responded* to the **harmony** of the song by humming along.

10. **refrain** (ri frān') hold back
 - a. **Refrain** from making hasty* promises.
 - b. Milo could not **refrain** from laughing at the jest.*
 - c. If you want to be heard, you must **refrain** from mumbling.*
11. **illegal** (i lē' gl) not lawful; against the law
 - a. It is **illegal** to reveal* the names of juvenile* delinquents.*
 - b. Bigamy* is **illegal** in the United States.
 - c. Mr. Worthington's **illegal** stock manipulations* led to his jail sentence.
12. **narcotic** (när kät' ik) drug that produces drowsiness, sleep, dullness, or an insensible condition, and lessens pain by dulling the nerves
 - a. Opium is a powerful **narcotic**.
 - b. We do not have adequate* knowledge of the **narcotic** properties of these substances.
 - c. The doctor prescribed a **narcotic** medicine to soothe* the patient's suffering.

Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

A Helping Hand

Youth workers Bill Nash and Jim Boyle are house-hunters, not so much for a house as for a concerned family willing to house and feed troubled youngsters temporarily. They try to give **prompt** attention to those who cannot or will not live at home.

For some, leaving home may have been the result of a **hasty** decision, based on a **scorching** remark and the subsequent* **tempest** within the family. The cooling-off period away from the family is a time to **soothe** feelings. With **sympathetic** outsiders, youngsters have a chance

to **redeem** themselves. The hope, of course, is that they will learn to relate* to adults again and quickly **resume** a normal life of **harmony** with their own families.

Some people **refrain** from offering their homes, expressing vague* fears of the harmful effects on their own children. But this has not been the case, even when the problem of the "visitor" was the **illegal** use of **narcotics**. One parent remarked, "With us it worked the other way. The horror of drugs became real to my own son. We got a lot more than we gave."

Place one of the new words in each of the blanks below.

1. I insist* on a _____ answer to my question.
2. Harriet's anger was subsequently* _____ by the apology.*
3. The minister said those who are not _____ from sin will perish.*
4. Joseph could not _____ from embracing* his long-lost brother.
5. My cat and dog, though traditionally* enemies, have lived in perfect _____ for years.
6. Because he liked to be prompt,* Sal ate only a _____ meal.
7. The farmers were grateful* that the _____ had not destroyed their harvest.*
8. Jenny picked up the hot iron just as it was about to _____ my shirt.
9. The couple seemed so _____ that the break-up baffled* us.
10. Chris Pollaro _____ his former position with the company.
11. It is _____ to own firearms without a license.
12. It is impossible* to estimate* the harm caused by the illegal* use of _____.

Answer key, p. 150

Exercise

Now make up your own sentences, one for each of the new words you have just been taught.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____